

TOPANGA COMMUNITY

WILDLAND FIRE

EVACUATION PLAN

7/9/09

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I Background

1 Community Evacuation Plan and Hazard Identification

Community Evacuation Plan Objective

To ensure, in cooperation with public agencies, a safe and effective community response to a wildland fire evacuation.

Hazard Description

The Topanga community is part of the urban-wildland intermix and is subject to wildland fires that have caused and can cause loss of life and property. The Topanga community's limited ingress and egress complicates evacuation planning by responding agencies.

Fire Behavior and History

The last major fire in Topanga Canyon occurred November 2, 1993, at 1045 hours and was a wind-driven fire. The fire consumed approximately 1,200 acres per hour, with a total of 16,500 acres, and lasted until November 7. At 1132 hours, the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) was filling the first request for 20 strike teams and 10 hand crews ordered by the first arriving units. The first excess resources were released on November 4, 1993.

Losses

- 3 Fatalities
- 373 Homes
- 12 Mobile homes
- 92 Vehicles

Fuel-driven fires typically do not grow to the size of a wind-driven fire. The fire will typically run to a ridgetop, stall out, and be picked up with aircraft, hose lines, and hand crews.

In a wind-driven fire consuming approximately 2 square miles per hour, as seen in the Topanga Canyon fire of 1993, evacuation is imperative. With the limited ingress and

egress it is essential to have as many as possible of the residents in the threatened community evacuate immediately.

The fire behavior witnessed in the 1993 Topanga fire included reported firebrand spotting ½ mile in front of the flaming front. The heavy fuels in this area primarily consist of chaparral—a generic term comprising sage, buckwheat, yucca, sumac, chamise, scrub oak, ceanothus, and toyon. When these fuels are in alignment with slope, wind, and topography, there may be flames in excess of 40–50 feet. There can be some flame lengths in excess of 200 feet on steep slopes with flashy fuels.

Most of the residents have not lived in the community long enough to remember the type of fire behavior witnessed during the 1993 fire. After many years of significant drought we have similar or worse fire conditions. Annual rainfall produces a large amount of grass and flashy fuels. These dry out during the summer months and leave a fuel bed that is highly receptive to flying brands.

Planning History

- 2000—County Strategic Plan for Municipal Services for Unincorporated Areas.
- Topanga chosen as pilot for Action Plan F—Emergency Management.
- Survival Guide to be developed that would be customized to the needs and unique characteristics of the community.
- 2002—Steering Committee formed and composed of community leaders; County Departments of Fire, Sheriff, Public Works, and Animal Care; and governmental agencies. The committee determined three phases for Survival Guide to address: response, preparedness, and recovery.
- 2003—Workshop conducted by Steering Committee resulted in 2 work groups: Planning and Response; and Communication, Education, and Collaboration.
- 2005—*The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide* completed and distributed to Topanga residents.
- 2006—Planning and Recovery Work Group formed to address remaining disaster information: Preventing and Preparing for Disaster (brush clearance, freeze information, and community organizations), Pet Preparedness and Evacuation, Recovery, and Hard-to-Reach Groups.
- 2007—*Supplement to the Survival Guide*, wallet cards, and pet evacuation flyers completed and distributed to Topanga residents and made available on the Web.

2

Operational Area Emergency Response Plan

Overview

Day-to-day emergency response within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County is governed by the Incident Command System (ICS) and the operational plans and protocols of the responding agencies. Should an emergency go beyond day-to-day response capability, the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP) will be activated. The OAERP addresses how the County will carry out centralized emergency management to ensure the successful coordination of the response and the initiation of recovery operations among County departments in response to incidents in the unincorporated areas and/or the incorporated areas of the County Operational Area (OA). The OAERP also addresses interagency coordination of information, operations, and mutual aid among the local governments within the OA and between the OA and the Regional Level as defined in the state's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

The Los Angeles County OAERP is in compliance with SEMS, which incorporates the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Emergency Organization

Upon activation of the County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC), the Sheriff becomes the Director of Emergency Operations for the response. The Sheriff's Department, the Office of Emergency Management, and designated County departments will staff the CEOC, carry out emergency response coordination, and initiate recovery operations under the OAERP and its procedures. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for recovery operations and will ensure coordination with the Sheriff during the response phase. Then the CEO takes charge following the transition from response to recovery, transforming, as needed, the CEOC organization into a recovery organization, including activation of the Recovery Coordination Center (RCC) if needed.

Mutual Aid

The foundation of California's emergency planning and response is a statewide mutual aid system designed to ensure that adequate resources, facilities, and other support are provided to jurisdictions whenever their own resources prove to be inadequate to cope with a given situation. The basis for the system is the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement, as provided for in the California Emergency Services Act. This agreement was developed in 1950 and has been adopted by the state, all 58 counties, and most incorporated cities in the State of California. The Master Mutual Aid Agreement creates a formal structure wherein each jurisdiction retains control of its own facilities, personnel, and resources, but may also receive or render assistance to other jurisdictions within California. State government is obligated to provide available resources to assist local jurisdictions in emergencies. Local jurisdictions may negotiate, coordinate, and prepare additional mutual aid agreements. The State has adopted mutual aid plans for law enforcement, fire services and rescue, coroners, and emergency managers. Additional statewide mutual aid plans for medical

health, public works, and care and shelter are under development. Regardless of the existence of a mutual aid plan, all public agency resources are coordinated under the principles of SEMS.

A statewide mutual aid system, operating within the framework of the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, allows for the progressive mobilization of resources to and from emergency response agencies, local governments, operational areas, regions, and state with the intent to provide adequate resources to requesting agencies.

The adoption of SEMS does not alter existing mutual aid systems. These systems work through local government, operational area, regional, and state levels consistent with SEMS.

Mutual aid may also be obtained from other states. Interstate mutual aid may be obtained through direct state-to-state contacts, pursuant to interstate agreements and compacts, or may be coordinated through federal agencies.

Mutual Aid and Topanga

While the community of Topanga and the community organizations that operate in Topanga are not signatories to the Master Mutual Aid Agreement and accordingly may not make or respond to mutual aid requests, the public agencies serving Topanga are part of the statewide system. When local resources have been reasonably committed and additional resources are required, requests for mutual aid will be initiated through the Los Angeles County Operational Area. Fire and law enforcement agencies will request or render mutual aid directly through established channels. Any action that involves financial outlay by the jurisdiction, or a request for military assistance, must be authorized by the appropriate local official.

Depending on the severity of the emergency, a Los Angeles CEOC may be activated and a local emergency may be proclaimed by the County Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Officer, or the Sheriff. The Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP, a community organization) may activate the T-CEP Volunteer Emergency Operations Center to ensure better community coordination with the Incident or Unified Command in charge of the field-level response. Upon activation of the CEOC, the State OES will activate the Region Emergency Operations Center (REOC) at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos. The State Operations Center (SOC) in Sacramento will also activate to support the REOC(s), state agencies, and other entities in the affected areas and to ensure the effectiveness of the state's SEMS.

If the governor requests and receives a Presidential Declaration of an Emergency of Major Disaster under Public Law 93-88, he will appoint a State Coordinating Officer (SCO). The SCO and an appointed Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will coordinate and control state and federal recovery efforts in supporting local operations. All state emergency response efforts and initial recovery support will be coordinated by the REOC. A Joint Field Office will be established to coordinate recovery and relief programs, and the County may determine the need for and establish Local Assistance Centers (LACs).

Participation of Volunteer and Private Agencies

Private and volunteer agencies may cooperate with the mutual aid system along with governmental agencies. For example, the disaster medical mutual aid system relies

heavily on private-sector involvement for medical/health resources. Some volunteer agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and others are an essential element of the statewide emergency response to meet the needs of disaster victims. These agencies mobilize volunteers and other resources through their own systems. They may also identify unmet resource needs that would be requested through the mutual aid system.

Mutual Aid Policies and Procedures

- Mutual aid resources will be provided and utilized in accordance with the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.
- During a proclaimed emergency, interjurisdictional mutual aid will be coordinated at the County, Operational Area, or mutual aid Regional level.

Authorities and References

Mutual aid assistance may be provided under one or more of the following authorities:

- California Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- California Fire and Rescue Emergency Plan
- California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan
- California Coroner's Mutual Aid Plan
- California Emergency Managers Mutual Aid Plan
- California State Emergency Plan
- California Emergency Services Act
- Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Response Plan

Relationship between the Topanga Community Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan and the OAERP

Departmental operational plans and the OAERP govern all County agency responses. Additional community emergency plans are not necessary unless there are unique conditions that the responding agencies recognize as requiring community-specific planning. Such community-specific plans are incorporated into the OAERP as an annex. The Topanga Community Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan addresses the unique conditions of the Topanga community area and ***describes directly or by reference the planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery actions*** required to deal with a major wildfire demanding rapid evacuation.

NOTE: Community plans may not constrain tactical decisions. Nothing in the Topanga Community Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan shall constrain or limit the Incident Commander or the Unified Command and/or their subordinates in making or implementing tactical decisions to protect life, property, and the environment based on field conditions and their best judgment at the time.

3

Law Enforcement in Times of Emergency and Evacuation

The Role of the Sheriff's Department in Emergencies

The Sheriff is the Director of Emergency Operations in Los Angeles County during and Emergency. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the Director of Emergency Services well as recovery operations. Both the Sheriff and CEO will ensure the activation of the CEOC and the CEOC will coordinate the response of assets to support Incident Commanders in the field. The Sheriff's Department Operations Center will coordinate the response of all law enforcement agencies within the OA and will coordinate with outside agencies for law enforcement support.

In the field, the Sheriff's Department will deploy Station-level and Department-level Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and Incident Commanders to command law enforcement action at the scene of a disaster. Depending on the type of disaster, the Department team may form a single command or a unified command with other agencies.

Evacuation Coordination

The Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the Fire Department and all other concerned agencies, will plan, coordinate, and execute all evacuation plans in the affected area. The Department will maintain the security of the area and will grant access based on the conditions of the incident.

4

Local Fire Agencies and EMS

Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services, and Resource Sharing

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides fire protection and life safety services for the Topanga community.

Topanga is located in Battalion 5 of Division VII of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (refer to Battalion 5 map in Appendix B for jurisdictional boundaries) and is primarily served by Fire Station 69, located in Topanga. Additional resources from the battalion are available to the community on an as-needed basis, as determined by the Incident Commander. Once resources within the battalion are exhausted, resources from other parts of the County will be dispatched to respond, if necessary.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides basic and advanced life-support services, but does not provide ambulance service; rather, the ambulance services are provided through a contract between the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and WestMed/McCormick Ambulance Company. WestMed/McCormick is the only ambulance company authorized to transport patients from incidents responded to by the Fire Department. Ambulance(s) are dispatched simultaneously with the engine and paramedic squad by the Fire Department's Command and Control Dispatch Center.

Local Fire Agencies

- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Los Angeles City Fire Department
- Ventura County Fire Department

5

Animal Services

Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (LACDACC), in coordination with the Incident Commander or Unified Command, provide the resources, emergency supplies, and evacuation assistance listed below:

LACDACC Personnel and Resources

Animal Control personnel

- Approximately 100 operational personnel
- 25 Animal Control trucks for small animals (dogs and cats)
- 2 dog trailers
- 6 trucks with horse trailers

LACDACC-ERT volunteers (large animal)

102 volunteers

10 to 20 trucks with horse trailers

Small animal volunteers (dog and cat)

360 volunteers

Emergency Sheltering

Small animal sheltering

- Primary: Agoura Animal Shelter
- Secondary: Baldwin Park Animal Shelter, Castaic Animal Shelter

Large animal sheltering

- Primary: Pierce College
- Secondary: Peter J. Pitchess (a.k.a. Wayside) Honor Ranch, Seaside Park (Ventura)

6 Regulatory Compliance

- Uniform Fire Code—Los Angeles County Code, Title 32, including but not limited to:
 - Brush clearance regulations—Sections 1117.2.2(3), 1117.2.3
 - Access issues—Sections 902.2.2.1, 1117.10
 - Brush clearance around propane tanks—Section 8209
 - Brush clearance around fire hydrants—Section 1001.7.2
- HFRA (Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003)
- California State Public Resources Code, Sections 4291–4299
- California Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- California Fire and Rescue Emergency Plan
- California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan
- California Coroner's Mutual Aid Plan
- California Emergency Managers Mutual Aid Plan
- California State Emergency Plan
- California Emergency Services Act
- Los Angeles Operational Area Emergency Response Plan
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended)
- Homeowners association/corporate landscaping regulations

II Public Education and Outreach

1

Publications Addressed to Residents

The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide

This guide is a publication developed by Topangans and local government to encourage residents to be proactive in developing their individual preparedness and evacuation plan. The guide can be downloaded at www.topangasurvival.org or www.t-cep.org.

Supplement to The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide

The *Supplement* builds on the information contained in *The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide* and is customized to Topanga. It covers the following areas: Preventing and Preparing for Disaster, Pet Preparedness and Evacuation, and Recovering from Disaster. It can be downloaded at www.topangasurvival.org or www.t-cep.org.

Emergency Survival Tips

This brochure was developed in both English and Spanish to show employees who work in Topanga where the nearest Community Safety Areas are and what steps to take toward preparedness.

Pet Brochure

Essential information about what needs to be done to prepare for the care, safety, and survival of pets. This material was distributed by various methods, including at veterinary offices and pet-related businesses and in the bimonthly customer bills of County Waterworks District no. 29.

Emergency Information Card

This foldout wallet-size card contains not only phone numbers that would be useful during recovery from a disaster but also a description of red flag weather.

Prevention Pull-out brochure

Material found in the *Supplement to The Topanga Survival Guide* will be reproduced separately and distributed in conjunction with Fire Department brush clearance notices.

NOTE Any materials developed by T-CEP are not approved by the County unless the County specifically approves them

Communications Addressed to Residents

Topanga Tim Tips

Monthly vignettes about emergency preparedness are placed in the local paper, the *Topanga Messenger*. These vignettes are examples of unique situations and ways to handle them.

Emergency Preparedness Fairs

The Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP, a community volunteer organization), in cooperation with Los Angeles County, puts on a Preparedness Fair approximately every 3 years. It brings together vendors, County agencies, and volunteer organizations to provide access to various products and services that will help members of the community to be better prepared for the next disaster.

Topanga Elementary School Disaster Preparedness Poster Contest

The poster contest is held annually and is sponsored by T-CEP. The purpose is to enlighten students and their families about the need for preparedness at home and at school. The contest winners (one per grade level) are given appropriate recognition.

T-CEP Hot Line (310) 455-3000

This hot line is staffed by trained local volunteers. They go through a refresher training at least once a year. Hot line volunteers give out only verified factual information.

3

Web Information

www.topangasurvival.org This Web site is dedicated to *The Topanga Survival Guide* and its *Supplement*, which can both be downloaded here.

www.t-cep.org The T-CEP Web site has information regarding preparedness, classes, and the organization, as well as links to other disaster organizations. During a disaster the Web site is activated and regularly updated to give pertinent incident information.

www.lacounty.info The Los Angeles County Web site. Through this site, residents can access information about County departments and services, including emergency preparedness information.

zev.lacounty.gov Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's Web site has a page of emergency preparedness information, with links to further sites containing information in English and Spanish.

www.ESPFOCUS.org The web page for the LA County OEM led regional Emergency Survival Program (ESP) provides all hazards preparedness information for individuals, families and businesses.

III Community Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan

1 Overview

Organization

During a wind-driven fire that will not be contained with first alarm resources, the Incident Command system will be initiated with the request for a Los Angeles County Fire Department Incident Management Team to manage the fire. There will be a Unified Command Post established to coordinate all of the resources and cooperating agencies:

- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Los Angeles City Fire Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Police Department
- Ventura County Fire Department
- Ventura County Sheriff's Department
- California Highway Patrol
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control
- California State Parks
- National Park Service
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
- Southern California Edison

Management Objectives

Unified Command will establish objectives for the incident. Examples of these may be:

- Protection of life, including the lives of first responders
- Protection of property
- Evacuation of community members
- Evacuation of large animals
- Protection of the environment

Evacuations

During this coordinated attack, with assisting resources, evacuation triggers will be established and executed with the assistance of law enforcement. In a fast-moving fire, it

Topanga Wildland Fire Community Evacuation Plan 7/09/09

may not be possible to evacuate all persons. At such a time it may be necessary to use Community Safety Areas (CSAs) and Neighborhood Survival Areas (NSAs) as temporary emergent survival locations for those who cannot evacuate in time.

Large animal rescue in Topanga will always be a challenge because of the large number and limited access. Time is always a major consideration, along with rate of the fire's spread. If time allows, evacuation from the area is always a consideration. Sheltering in place will always be a good choice if the animals can survive in their corrals. In the event that sheltering in place is not a viable option, then moving them to a safer location will be the next alternative.

2 Collaboration

Stakeholders

Although the Topanga Emergency Management Plan committee was originally envisioned as a community–County collaboration, the planning team grew to include state representatives because Topanga Canyon Boulevard is a state highway and much of the acreage in Topanga is a state park. Organizations and agencies involved include:

- American Red Cross
- Arson Watch
- Board of Supervisors—Third District
- California Highway Patrol
- California State Parks
- CalTrans
- Charter Communications
- Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office (CEO)
 - Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
 - Office of Unincorporated Area Services (OUAS)
- Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control
- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services—Public Health
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
 - Road Maintenance
 - Building and Safety
 - Waterworks District no. 29
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
- Resource Conservation District
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC)/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
- State Office of Emergency Services (OES)
- Topanga Animal Rescue
- Topanga Chamber of Commerce
- Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP)
 - Disaster Radio Team
 - Equine Education Team
 - Hot Line
 - Neighborhood Networks
- Topanga Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Topanga Elementary School
- Topanga Town Council
- Topanga Watershed Committee

Planning Process

Beginning in 2003, approximately 60 community members and personnel from County and State agencies worked together as a task force to develop a survival guide customized for Topanga. The following principles shaped the approach to this project:

- Engage the community with the appropriate public agencies in the planning and communication processes.
- Build on the assets already in place in the community.
- Solicit a strong commitment from all involved stakeholders.
- Provide the unincorporated areas with the same level of hazard and community-specific planning that the law mandates that cities provide for their residents.

Steps in the planning process:

- 1—Establish a joint Steering Committee of community and public agency members, who formed work groups to focus on Planning, Response, Recovery, and Communication/Education (completed).
- 2—Assess community and public agency needs (completed).
- 3—Develop *The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide* and supporting publications (completed).
- 4—Incorporate recovery information into the *Supplement to The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide* (completed).
- 5—Develop the Topanga Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan and obtain formal approval for it (in progress).
- 6—Develop and implement a public education and outreach plan for *The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide* and the *Supplement* (ongoing).
- 7—Continue to evaluate the plans through periodic tabletop drills, exercises, and incidents (ongoing).
- 8—Identify the best means to review and update plans (ongoing).
- 9—Produce updates (ongoing).

3. Approval by the County Of Los Angeles Emergency Management Council

The County of Los Angeles Emergency Management Council (EMC), created by Section 2.68.160 of the Emergency Ordinance, and comprised of key County departments, is responsible for overseeing the preparedness activities of County departments. This includes preparation of plans, emergency and disaster-related training of County employees, and related emergency preparedness activities.

The EMC has reviewed and approved the Topanga Community Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan and incorporates it into the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP) as a Hazard Specific Annex. Significant revisions to this Annex will be submitted to the EMC for approval.

Signed: _____



William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

Chairman, Emergency Management Council

Date: _____

7-29-09

4 Community Wildfire Overview and History

Wildland-Urban Intermix (WUI) ZONE AND VEGETATION MAP

Refer to Appendix B, Cal Fire Fuels Map.

Planning Area Boundary

Topanga Canyon is located within Area B of Los Angeles County Disaster Management Areas A through H, Mutual Aid Region I of State Mutual Aid Regions 1 through 6, and the Southern Region of the three State Administrative Regions.

Topanga Canyon is located in the southwesterly corner of Los Angeles County, and its 18.2 square miles of unincorporated Los Angeles County are nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains. It consists of various canyons and valleys, with altitudes ranging from 85 feet to over 2,000 feet. Its unique shape and location can present many challenges during an emergency.

Topanga Canyon is bordered on the south by the Pacific Ocean and the City of Malibu, on the north by the Woodland Hills area of the City of Los Angeles and the City of Calabasas, on the east by the Reseda and Pacific Palisades areas of the City of Los Angeles, and on the west by unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County within the Santa Monica Mountains.

Community Information

The community located within Topanga Canyon has a population of approximately 12,000 residents. This number increases during weekdays because of incoming employees of local businesses.

The primary transportation route consists of a single two-lane state highway traversing Topanga from Highway 101 on the north to Highway 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) on the south. This highway is designated State Route 27 and is referred to as Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Topanga has no heavy industry, and the vast majority of businesses are retail sales and services. There are no hospitals in Topanga; there are a few small medical clinics, along with body works and chiropractors. Major medical facilities are located in the nearby communities of Woodland Hills and Santa Monica.

Topanga is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District and has one elementary school in the canyon (Topanga Elementary). Middle and high schools are located in the nearby communities of Woodland Hills, Malibu, and Pacific Palisades. In addition, there are several private schools.

Topanga does not have its own police or fire department, but relies on the County of Los Angeles for provision of these services. The community also relies on local volunteer

organizations for assistance in emergency communications and other necessary emergency services.

Fire History and Behavior

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In the case of a wind-driven fire consuming approximately 2 square miles per hour, as seen in the Topanga Canyon fire of 1993, evacuation is imperative. With limited ingress and egress it is essential to have as many as possible of the residents in the threatened community evacuate immediately.

The fire behavior witnessed in the 1993 Topanga fire reported firebrand spotting ½ mile in front of the flaming front. The heavy fuels in this area primarily consist of chaparral—a generic term comprising sage, buckwheat, yucca, sumac, chamise, scrub oak, ceanothus, and toyon. When these fuels are in alignment with slope, wind, and topography, there may be flames in excess of 40–50 feet. There can be some flame lengths in excess of 200 feet on steep slopes with flashy fuels.

5 Community Wildfire Risk Assessment

Hazard

Fuel- and wind-driven fires in the wildland-urban intermix.

Ingress/Egress

The primary transportation route consists of a single two-lane state highway traversing Topanga from Highway 101 on the north to Highway 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) on the south. This highway is designated State Route 27 and is referred to as Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The distance between Highway 101 and Highway 1 is approximately 14 miles.

A secondary transportation route consists of a very narrow, winding two-lane road known as Old Topanga Canyon Road, which runs from Mulholland Highway to State Route 27 (Topanga Canyon Blvd.). The distance between Mulholland Highway and State Route 27 is approximately 4 miles.

Access to the residential neighborhoods of Topanga, with very little exception, is via streets feeding off State Route 27. In most cases, these various neighborhoods are "one way in, one way out." As a result, during a major evacuation of the canyon, State Route 27 will become overly congested.

6

Fire Agencies

- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Los Angeles City Fire Department
- Ventura County Fire Department
- California State Parks
- Cal Fire
- National Park Service
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

The agencies listed above normally respond automatically through mutual or automatic aid agreements and/or the California Fire Assistance Agreement. Additional state and local responding agencies would be coordinated pursuant to the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan.

7

Law Enforcement

Evacuation Coordination

The Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the Fire Department and all other concerned agencies, will plan, coordinate, and execute all evacuation plans in the affected area. The Department will maintain the security of the area and will grant access based on the conditions of the incident.

Resources

The Sheriff, through the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan, may access resources as needed from other law enforcement agencies within the Los Angeles County Operational Area (OA) and the California Highway Patrol. If OA resources are not sufficient, then resources may be requested within Law Enforcement Region IA. If Regional law enforcement resources are not sufficient, then mutual aid from other regions and additional state resources will be coordinated through the State Operations Center (SOC).

Law Enforcement Agencies

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Police Department
- Ventura County Sheriff's Department
- California Highway Patrol
- California State Parks
- Los Angeles County Unified School District
- Los Angeles County Police

Topanga-Specific Tactics

Topanga Canyon has been divided into nine Tactical Zones for purposes of evacuations. Responding personnel will be assigned to an area, evacuate and secure it, and report back to the Command Post for either relief or reassignment. The Tactical Zones will be evacuated based on the needs of the incident. Shelters/evacuation centers have been predesignated by the Red Cross, which will assist the Sheriff's Department in planning for any evacuation.

Personnel conducting evacuations will give either an evacuation warning—meaning that the event is approaching and residents and employees should leave—or an evacuation order. An order is mandatory; however, if people choose to stay inside their home or business, the law is unclear as to the authority granted to police agencies to enforce the order. Therefore, responding personnel will record refusal and will move on to the next house or business.

The Department of Animal Care and Control will conduct animal evacuations with Sheriff escorts. CERT volunteers will coordinate with Sheriff's Department personnel to

Topanga Wildland Fire Community Evacuation Plan 7/09/09

enhance the notification process and to provide information regarding the incident. T-CEP, through its hot line, Web site, DRT, and Neighborhood Networks, also serves to disseminate information.

8 Medical Field Response

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides basic and advanced life support services, but does not provide ambulance service; rather, the ambulance services are provided through a contract between the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and WestMed/McCormick Ambulance Company. WestMed/McCormick is the only ambulance company authorized to transport patients from incidents responded to by the Fire Department. Ambulance(s) are dispatched simultaneously with the engine and paramedic squad by the Fire Department's Command and Control Dispatch Center.

Patients are transported to hospitals designated by the Medical Alert Center, and distribution of medical resources and patients among hospitals is coordinated under the authority of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

9 Animal Services

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control will, in coordination with the Incident Commander or the Unified Command, ensure rescue and/or sheltering of animals consistent with the Incident Action Plan and, in the case of CEOC activation, the OAERP. The Department will deploy its own resources as well as access, through mutual aid and/or agreement, volunteers and government agencies to assist them in carrying out their mission. Resources that would potentially be available to a response in Topanga are listed as follows:

- Area G Veterinary Disaster Team
- CART (County Animal Response Team)
- SCART (Surf City Animal Response Team)
- HSUS (Humane Society of the United States)
- Topanga Animal Rescue

10 Community Resources

Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP)

310-455-3000; www.t-cep.org; P.O. Box 1708, Topanga, CA 90290

T-CEP is a nonprofit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to help the Topanga community prepare for and cope with disasters such as wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. T-CEP teams include Hot Line, Disaster Radio, Red Cross, Equine Education, Mental Health, and Neighborhood Networks.

Arson Watch

310-455-4244; www.arsonwatch.com; P.O. Box 197, Topanga, CA 90290

Arson Watch is a volunteer program of the Malibu–Lost Hills Sheriff's Station whose goal is to help prevent wildfires in the Santa Monica Mountains. On high fire danger days, volunteers patrol the area looking for fires or fire hazards and seeking to deter deliberate arson as well as careless behavior that might start a fire. Patrols are by car or on horseback, bicycle, or foot, and members communicate by two-way radios.

Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control Equine Response Team (LACDACC-ERT)

Coordinating officer: 818-706-5883; Agoura Animal Shelter, 29525 Agoura Rd., Agoura, CA 93012

The LACDACC-ERT is a Countywide volunteer organization that originated in the Topanga/Malibu area after the 1993 firestorm. LACDACC-ERT's purpose is to assist with the safe evacuation of horses and livestock during large- and small-scale disasters. Team members must complete from 10 to 50 hours of training, which includes Fire Safety, First Aid, Horse Handling, and Tow Vehicle classes. The group also works to educate horse owners on disaster preparedness.

Topanga Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Topanga coordinator: Claire Davis, 310-455-9993; L.A. County Fire Department CERT coordinator: 323-881-3077

CERT is a program that has been developed nationwide to provide basic training to members of the public in safety and life-saving skills. The Topanga CERT's mission is to help the community by providing support in the event of a major emergency or catastrophe. CERT trainees learn about disaster preparedness, basic fire suppression, principles of light search and rescue operations, assessment of multiple victims (including triage and basic treatment of life-threatening injuries), and organization and management of volunteer response to a disaster (including disaster psychology). They provide general support for Los Angeles County first responders, as requested.

Topanga Animal Rescue

310-455-7268; www.topangaanimalrescue.com

Topanga Animal Rescue is a nonprofit organization that has the ability to mobilize a light veterinary field triage unit in the event of an emergency as well as provide ongoing animal education outreach programs for the community.

11

Evacuations

During the wildfire response the Unified Command will establish evacuation triggers, which will be executed with the assistance of Law Enforcement. Topanga Canyon has been divided into nine Tactical Zones for purposes of evacuations. Responding personnel will be assigned to an area, evacuate and secure it, and report back to the Command Post for either relief or reassignment. The Tactical Zones will be evacuated based on the needs of the incident. Evacuation centers have been predesignated by the Red Cross, which will assist the Sheriff's Department in planning for any evacuation.

Personnel conducting evacuations will give either an evacuation warning—meaning that the event is approaching and residents and employees should leave—or an evacuation order. An order is mandatory; however, if people choose to stay inside their home or business, the law is unclear as to the authority granted to police agencies to enforce the order. Therefore, responding personnel will record the refusal and will move on to the next house or business.

The Department of Animal Care and Control will conduct animal evacuations with Sheriff escorts. CERT volunteers will coordinate with Sheriff's Department personnel to enhance the notification process and to provide information regarding the incident. T-CEP—through its hot line, Web site, DRT, and Neighborhood Networks—also serves to disseminate information.

In a fast-moving fire, it may not be possible to evacuate all persons. At such a time it may be necessary to use Community Safety Areas (CSAs) and Neighborhood Survival Areas (NSAs) as temporary emergent refuge locations for those who cannot evacuate in time.

Large animal rescue in Topanga will always be a challenge because of the large number and limited access. Time is always a major consideration, along with rate of the fire's spread. If time allows, evacuation from the area is always a consideration. Sheltering in place will always be a good choice if the animals can survive in their corrals. In the event that sheltering in place is not a viable option, then moving them to a safer location will be the next alternative.

Residents are to follow the direction of law enforcement in effecting an evacuation. Prior to evacuation, residents should refer to *The Topanga Survival Guide*, which describes the Tactical Zones and routes for purposes of evacuation, and the T-CEP Web site, which lists available CSAs and NSAs.

12 Shelters

The Red Cross has positioned a 50-person Red Cross Shelter supply trailer, which is located at the T-CEP Volunteer EOC. There is a shelter team of approximately 25 volunteers. The T-CEP Volunteer EOC manager has the authority to open any one of four predesignated shelter locations in time of an emergency. The shelters in Topanga are not equipped with showers, and if the shelter is to remain operational for several days, portable showers will need to be brought in.

13

Training, Certification, and Exercises

T-CEP offers **Red Cross CPR/First Aid** classes quarterly.

T-CEP has a Disaster Radio Team (DRT) with approximately 20 licensed HAM operators. **HAM license** classes are offered periodically in Topanga. The T-CEP Volunteer EOC has approximately 3 HAM base stations. Many members of the DRT are members of DCS at the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station. Weekly radio nets and periodic exercises are part of the ongoing training required for all T-CEP/DRT volunteers. The weekly radio nets are used to check radios and repeaters on a regular basis.

T-CEP hot line, (310) 455-3000: T-CEP has a staff of approximately 20 volunteers who have received training on how to handle calls during a disaster. In addition to the training, they participate in tabletop exercises during the year. They give out only information that has been verified. The supervisor for the hot line is a licensed mental health professional.

T-CEP offers **NIMS/SEMS training** to volunteers of various community organizations.

Arson Watch trains its members to use **mobile and handheld two-way radios** and conducts periodic training of base station operators.

CERT training classes are taught several times per year in Topanga and Malibu; Topanga CERT conducts regular training enhancement exercises at its monthly meetings.

The **LACDACC-ERT training course** is offered on a limited basis through the Department of Animal Care and Control. Drills and brush-up classes are offered for ERT level 1, 2, and 3 volunteers.

Various County agencies also conduct periodic **drills and exercises**.

14 Communication Plan

Community Notification

A mass emergency notification system is in place that can disseminate real-time messages simultaneously and continuously by telephone to thousands of target recipients within minutes. The Sheriff's Department is the lead organization. Topanga Elementary School also participates in this program. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department will utilize the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to provide warnings and emergency notification to the public. A County Operational Area-wide mass notification system is under development.

Interagency Communications

Responding agencies will use existing department and mutual aid radio frequencies, augmented by other wireless means to communicate with their elements and one another and with their respective dispatch centers and/or headquarters.

Community Communications

T-CEP, through its hot line, Web site, DRT, and Neighborhood Networks, serves to disseminate information to members of the community. Arson Watch uses its network of two-way radios to relay information to relevant community organizations.

Appendix A

Contacts

Los Angeles County

Agricultural Commissioner's Office	
Weed Abatement	626-575-5485 or 818-883-6647
Board of Supervisors 3rd District Field Office	818-880-9416
<i>The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide</i>	topangasurvival.org
Department of Animal Care and Control	
Agoura Hills Shelter	818-991-0071
LADCACC-ERT	818-706-5883
Fire Department	
Emergency	911
Dispatch	310-456-6603
Brush Clearance Unit	626-969-2375
CERT Coordinator	323-881-3077
Environmental Review Unit	818-890-5719
Fire Prevention Unit	818-880-0341
Malibu Forestry Unit	818-222-1108
Station 69	310-455-1766
Human Services Referral	211 or 800-339-6993
Office of Emergency Management	323-980-2260
Public Works	800-675-4357, dpw.lacounty.org
Building and Safety	818-880-4150
Road Maintenance	310-456-8014
Waterworks District no. 29	310-456-6621
Registrar Recorder/County Clerk	800-815-2666 or 562-466-1310
Sheriff's Department	
Emergency	911
Lost Hills Station	818-878-1808

State of California

CalTrans Road Conditions	800-321-2752
Contractors State License Board (CSLB)	800-321-2752
Highway Patrol	chp.ca.gov
Dispatch	323-906-3405
West Valley office	818-888-0980
Roads Status	cad.chp.ca.gov
MRCA (Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority)	mrca.ca.gov
local office	323-221-9944
Office of Emergency Services (OES)	562-795-2900
Poison Control System	800-876-4766
Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mts.	818-597-8627
State Parks, Angeles District	818-880-0350

Other Regional/National

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 800-232-4636, bt.cdc.gov
City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power 213-367-4211, ladwp.com

Schools: Public

L.A. Unified School District hot line	213-241-4500, lausd.net
Pacific Palisades High School	310-230-6623, palihigh.enschool.org
Parkman Middle School	818-348-8770
Paul Revere Middle School	310-451-5789
Taft High School	818-348-7171, tafthigh.org
Topanga Elementary School	310-455-3711, topangaelementary.org
Las Virgenes Unified School District	818-880-4000, lvusd.k12.ca.us
Calabasas High School	818-222-7177, calabasashigh.com
A. E. Wright Middle School	818-880-4614
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District	310-450-8338, smmusd.org
Malibu High School	310-457-6801, malibuhigh.smmusd.org
Santa Monica High School	310-395-3204, smmusd.org/samohi

Schools: Private

Children's Corner	310-455-2467
Montessori School	310-455-3373
Muse Elementary School	310-455-4400
Topanga Co-op Preschool	310-455-3155, topangacooppreschool.org
Topanga Elementary School	310-455-3711, topangaelementary.org
Topanga Mountain School	818-346-8355, topangamountainschool.org
Viewpoint School	818-889-1262, viewpoint.org

Private Sector: Utilities

Amerigas	310-455-2131, amerigas.com
Delta Liquid Energy	818-838-4400, deltaliquidenergy.com
Southern California Edison	800-655-4555, sce.com
Line Clearing	661-257-8256
Suburban Propane	661-942-5117
Verizon California	800-483-2000, www22.verizon.com

Private Sector: Nongovernmental Organizations

American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles	800-540-2000, redcrossla.org
Arson Watch	310-455-4244, arsonwatch.com
Equestrian Trails, Inc.	818-362-6819, eternational.com
Humane Society of the U.S.	202-452-1100, hsus.org
National Fire Protection Association	617-770-3000, nfpa.org
PATCH (People Assisting Topanga Canyon with Helping Hands)	310-455-2894
T-CEP (Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness)	310-455-3000, t-cep.org
Topanga Animal Rescue	310-455-7268, topangaanimalrescue.com
Topanga CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)	310-455-9993
Topanga Creek Watershed Committee	topangaonline.com/twc
Topanga Town Council	310-455-3001, topangatowncouncil.org

Appendix B Maps

1. Fire Department Battalion 5 Map

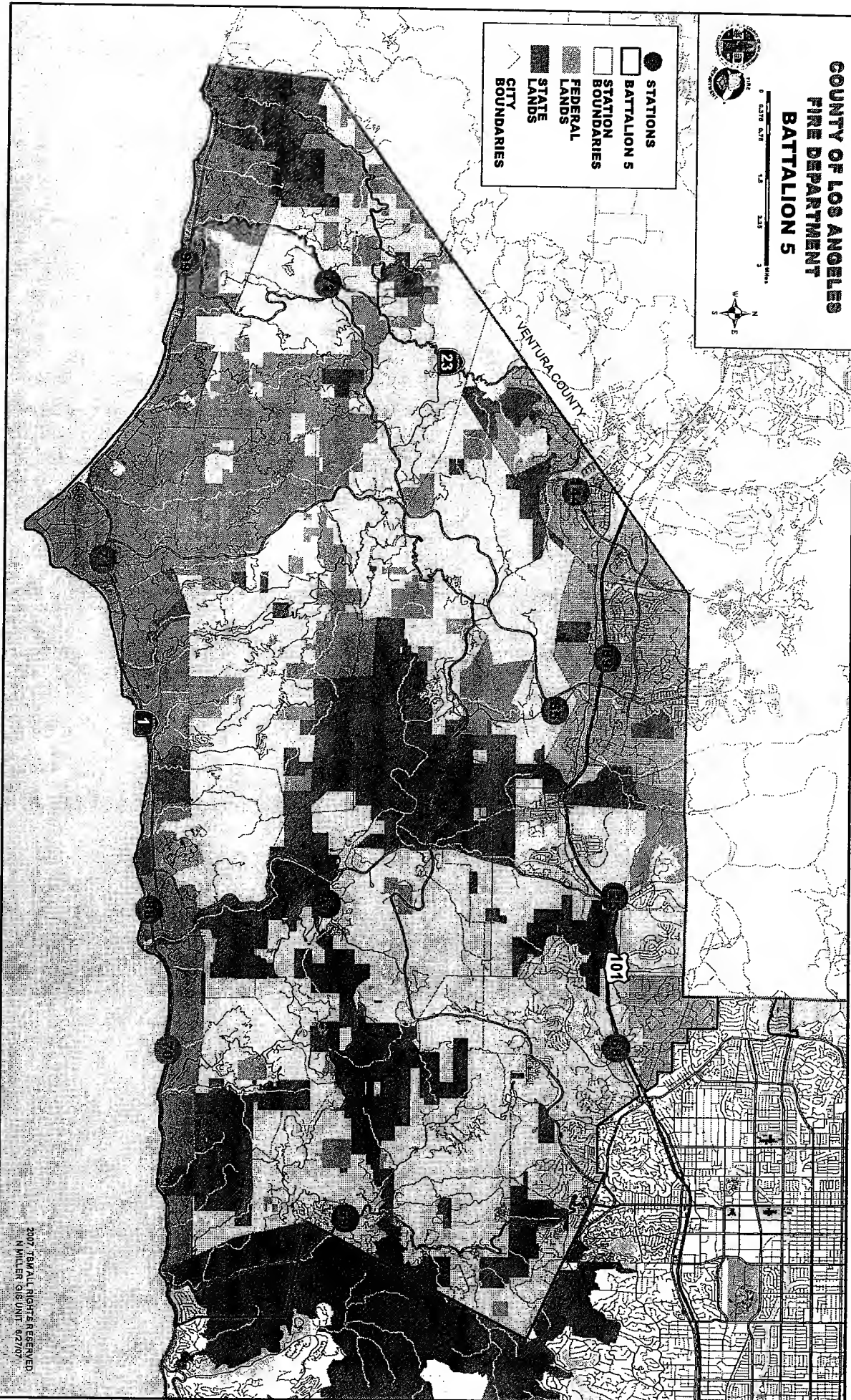
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT BATTALION 5



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

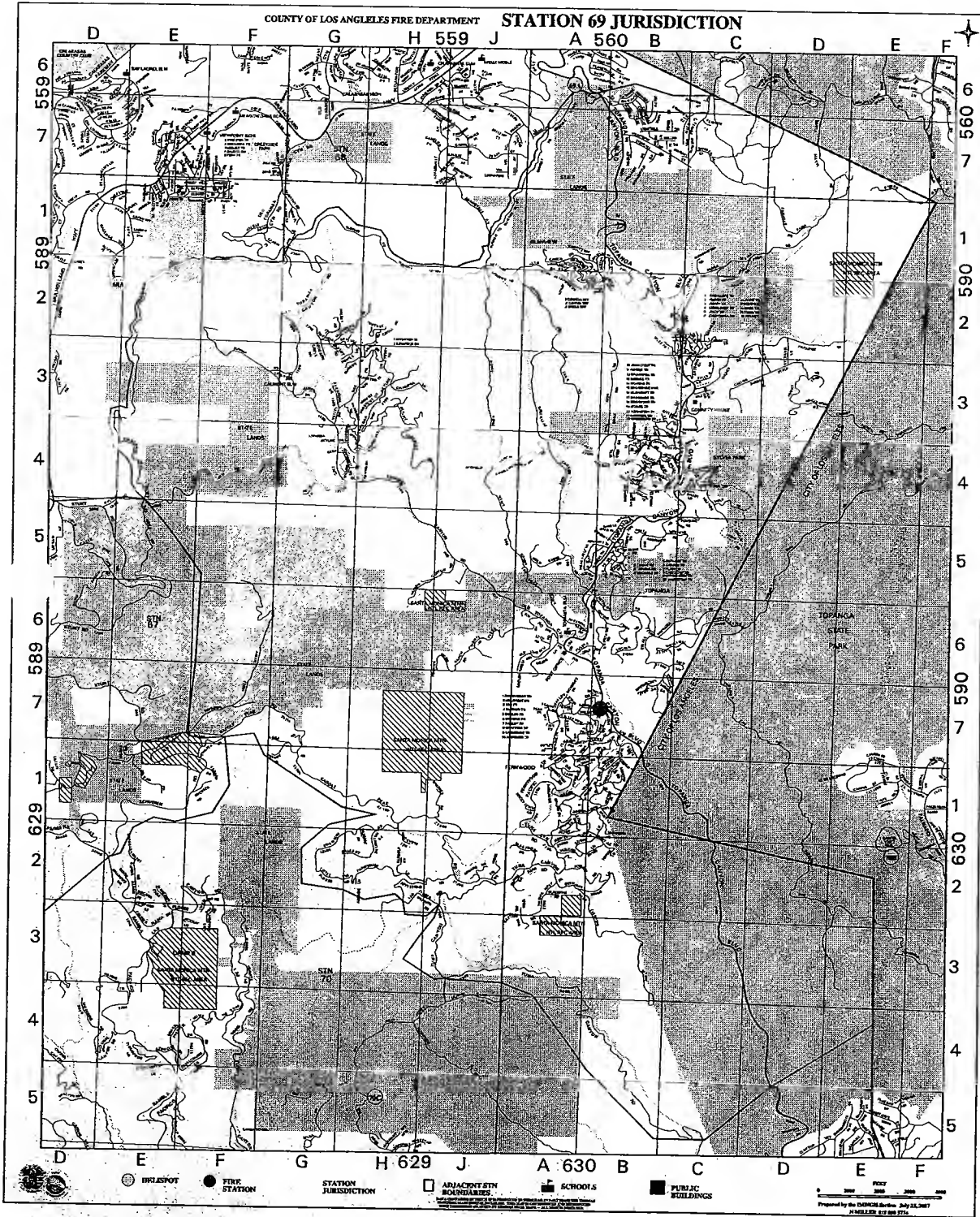


- STATIONS
- BATTALION 5
- STATION
- BOUNDARIES
- FEDERAL
- LANDS
- STATE
- LANDS
- ▲ CITY
- ▲ BOUNDARIES



2. Fire Department Station 69 Map

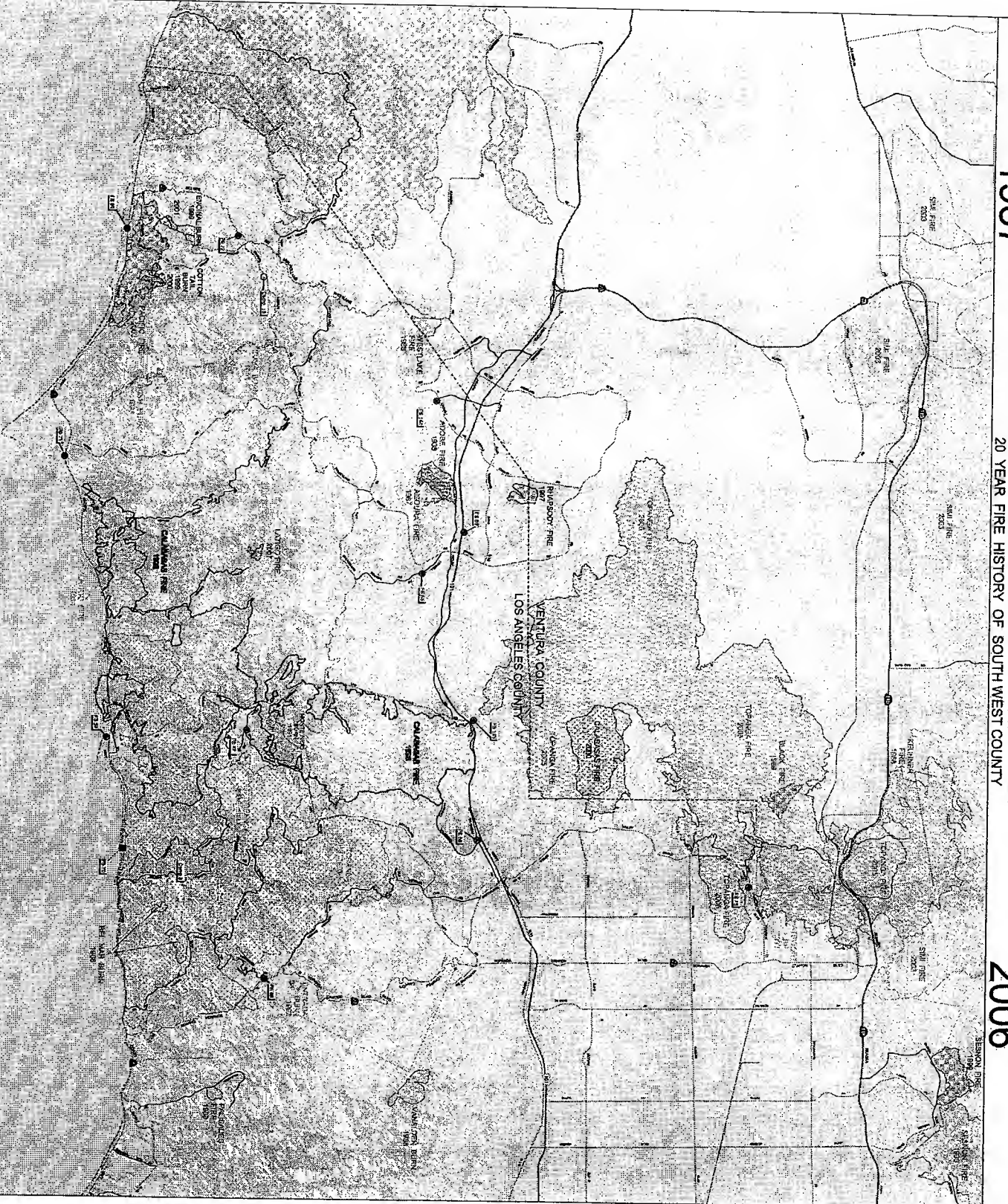
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT **STATION 69 JURISDICTION**



) **3. Fire Hazard History Map**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2006

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BATTALIONS

Battalion 6

Battalion 5

LEGEND

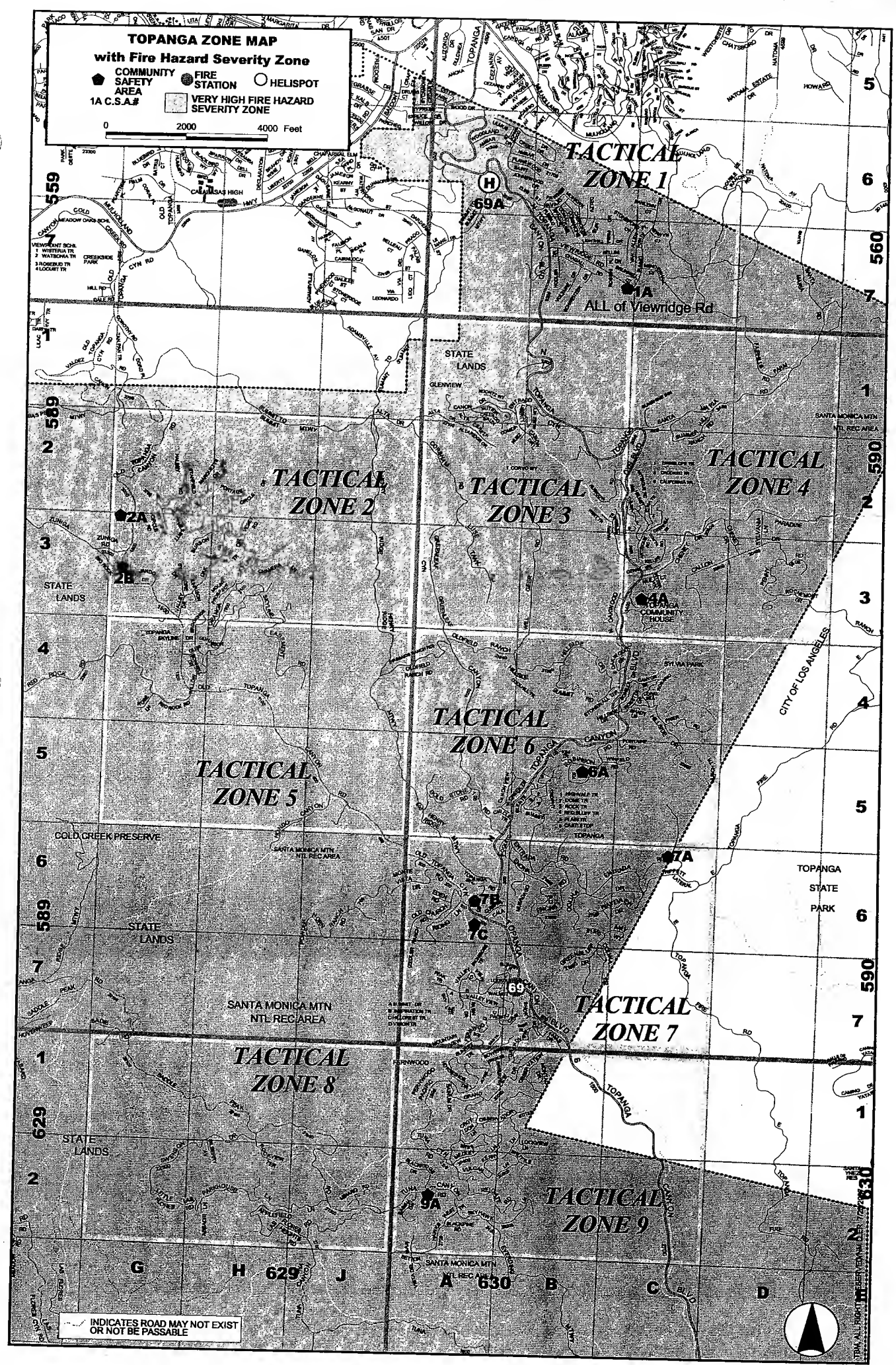
- Fire Camp
- Fire Station
- Station & Division Headquarters
- County Boundary

4. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map

TOPANGA ZONE MAP
with Fire Hazard Severity Zone

- COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA 1A C.S.A.#
- FIRE STATION
- HELISPOT
- VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE

0 2000 4000 Feet



INDICATES ROAD MAY NOT EXIST OR NOT BE PASSABLE



5. Cal Fire Fuels Map

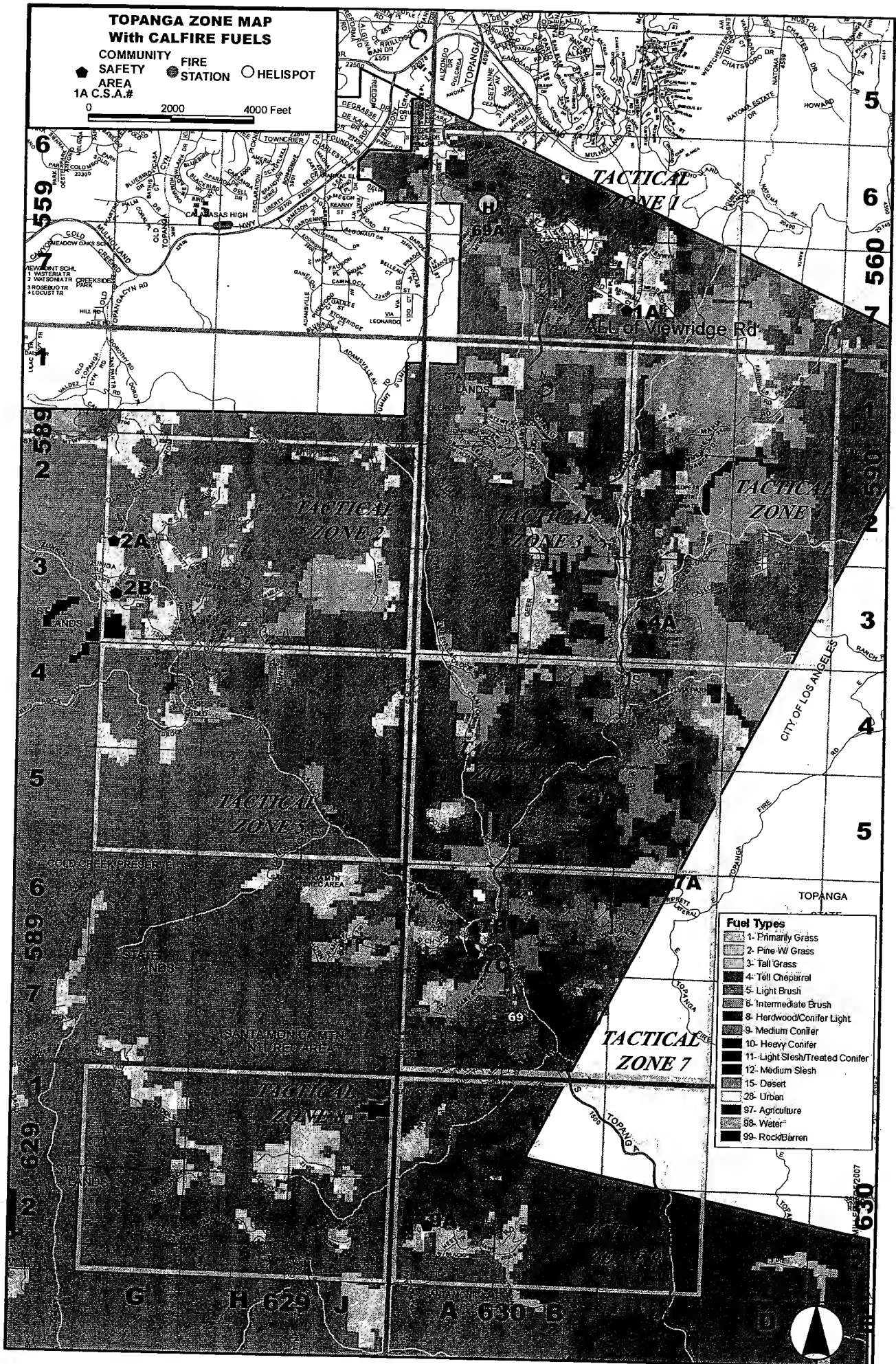
TOPANGA ZONE MAP With CALFIRE FUELS

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA 1A C.S.A.#

FIRE STATION

HELISPOT

0 2000 4000 Feet

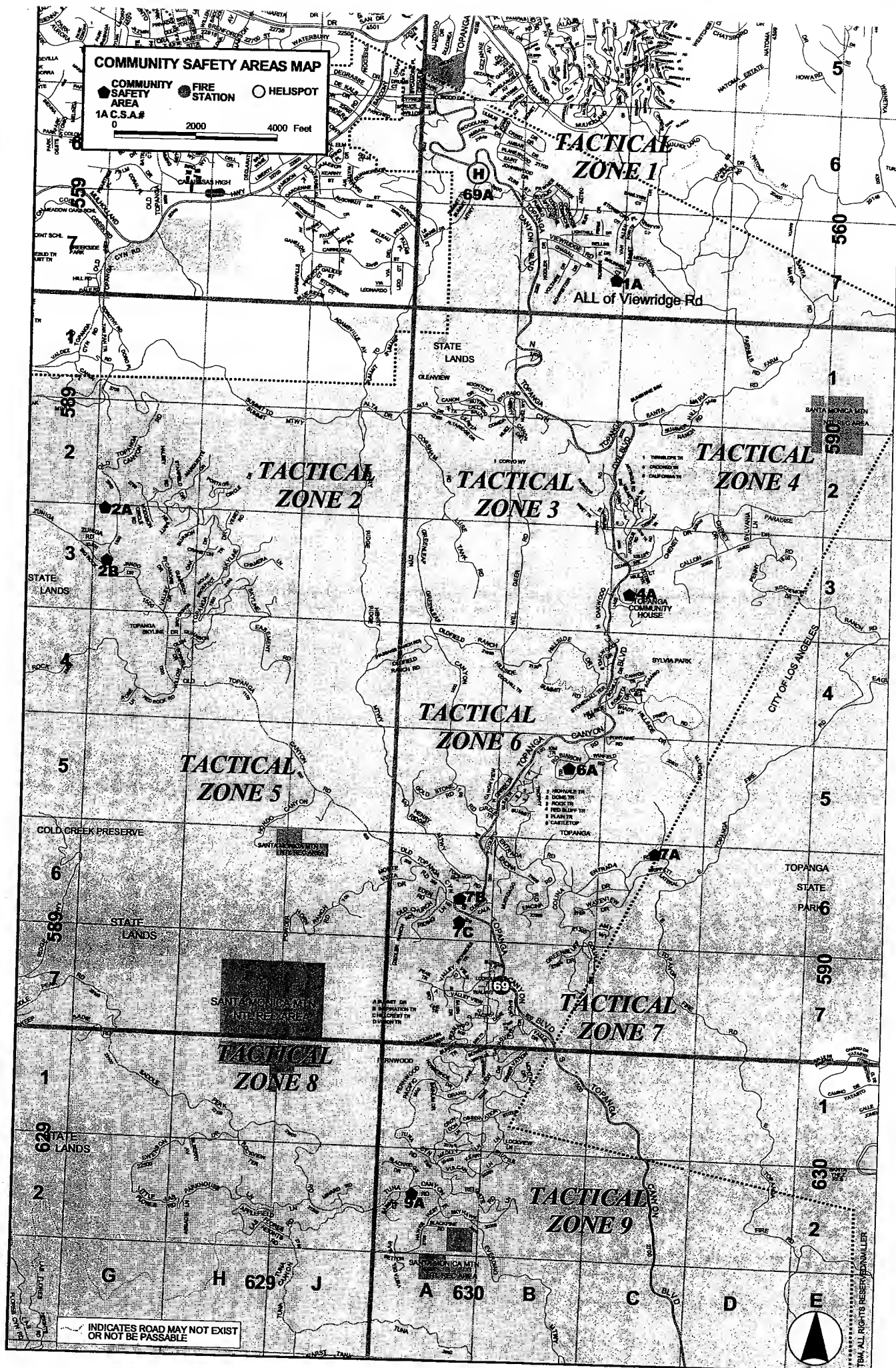


Fuel Types	
1	Primarily Grass
2	Pine W/ Grass
3	Tall Grass
4	Tall Chaparral
5	Light Brush
6	Intermediate Brush
8	Herdwood/Conifer Light
9	Medium Conifer
10	Heavy Conifer
11	Light Slesh/Treated Conifer
12	Medium Slesh
15	Desert
28	Urban
97	Agriculture
98	Water
99	Rock/Barren

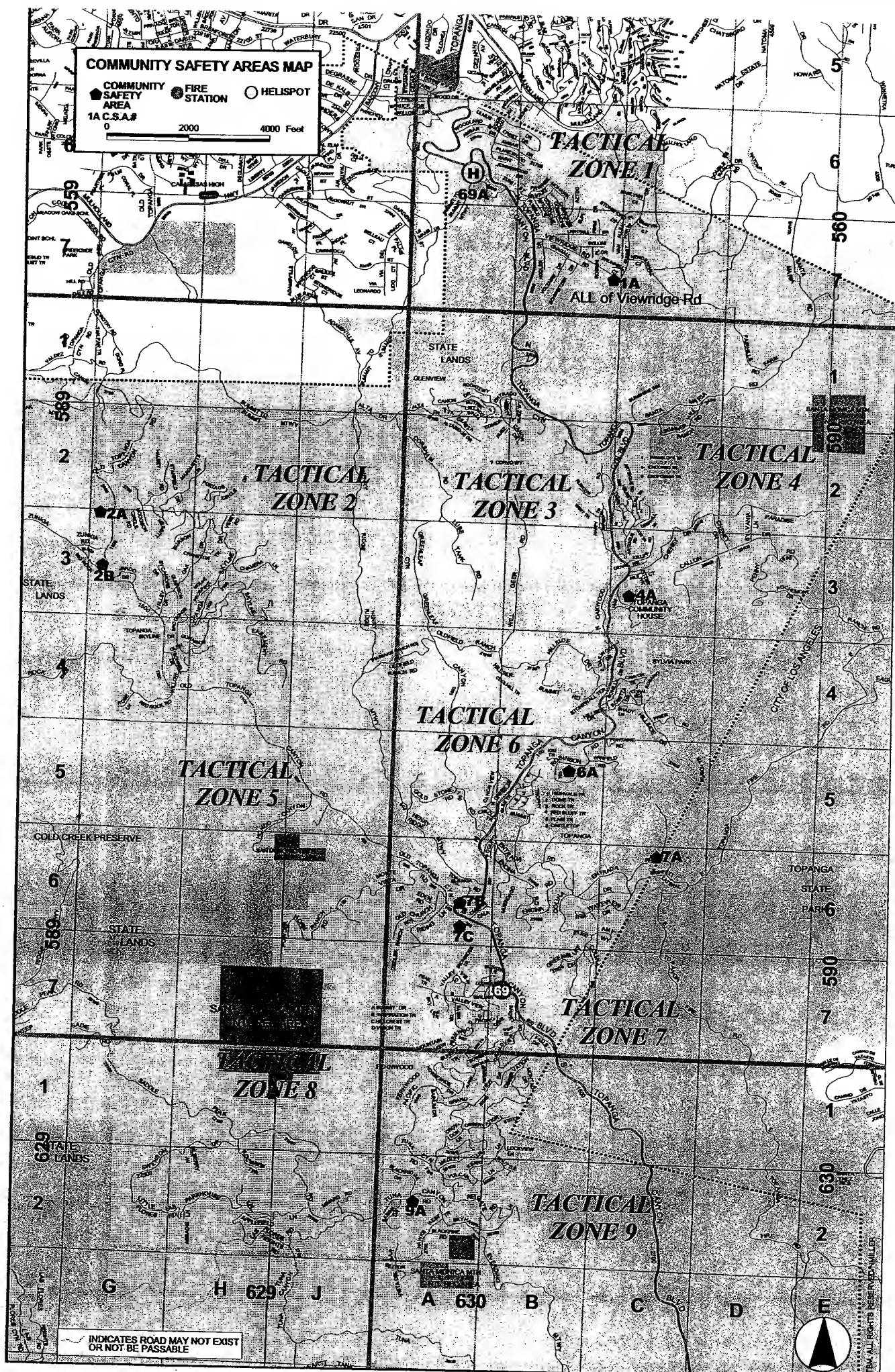
6. Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 1

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS MAP

● COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA
● FIRE STATION
○ HELISPOT
1A C.S.A.#
0 2000 4000 Feet



Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 2



Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 3

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS MAP

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA
1A C.S.A.#
0 2000 4000 Feet

● FIRE STATION ○ HELISPOT

INDICATES ROAD MAY NOT EXIST OR NOT BE PASSABLE

ALL of Viewridge Rd

STATE LANDS

TACTICAL ZONE 1

TACTICAL ZONE 2

TACTICAL ZONE 3

TACTICAL ZONE 4

TACTICAL ZONE 5

TACTICAL ZONE 6

TACTICAL ZONE 7

TACTICAL ZONE 8

TACTICAL ZONE 9

69A

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69BR

69BS

69BT

69BU

69BV

69BW

69BX

69BY

69BZ

69CA

69CB

69CC

69CD

69CE

69CF

69CG

69CH

69CI

69CJ

69CK

69CL

69CM

69CN

69CO

69CP

69CQ

69CR

69CS

69CT

69CU

69CV

69CW

69CX

69CY

69CZ

69DA

69DB

69DC

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69DL

69DM

69DN

69DO

69DP

69DQ

69DR

69DS

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69DU

69DV

69DW

69DX

69DY

69DZ

69EA

69EB

69EC

69ED

69EE

69EF

69EG

69EH

69EI

69EJ

69EK

69EL

69EM

69EN

69EO

69EP

69EQ

69ER

69ES

69ET

69EU

69EV

69EW

69EX

69EY

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69FB

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69GZ

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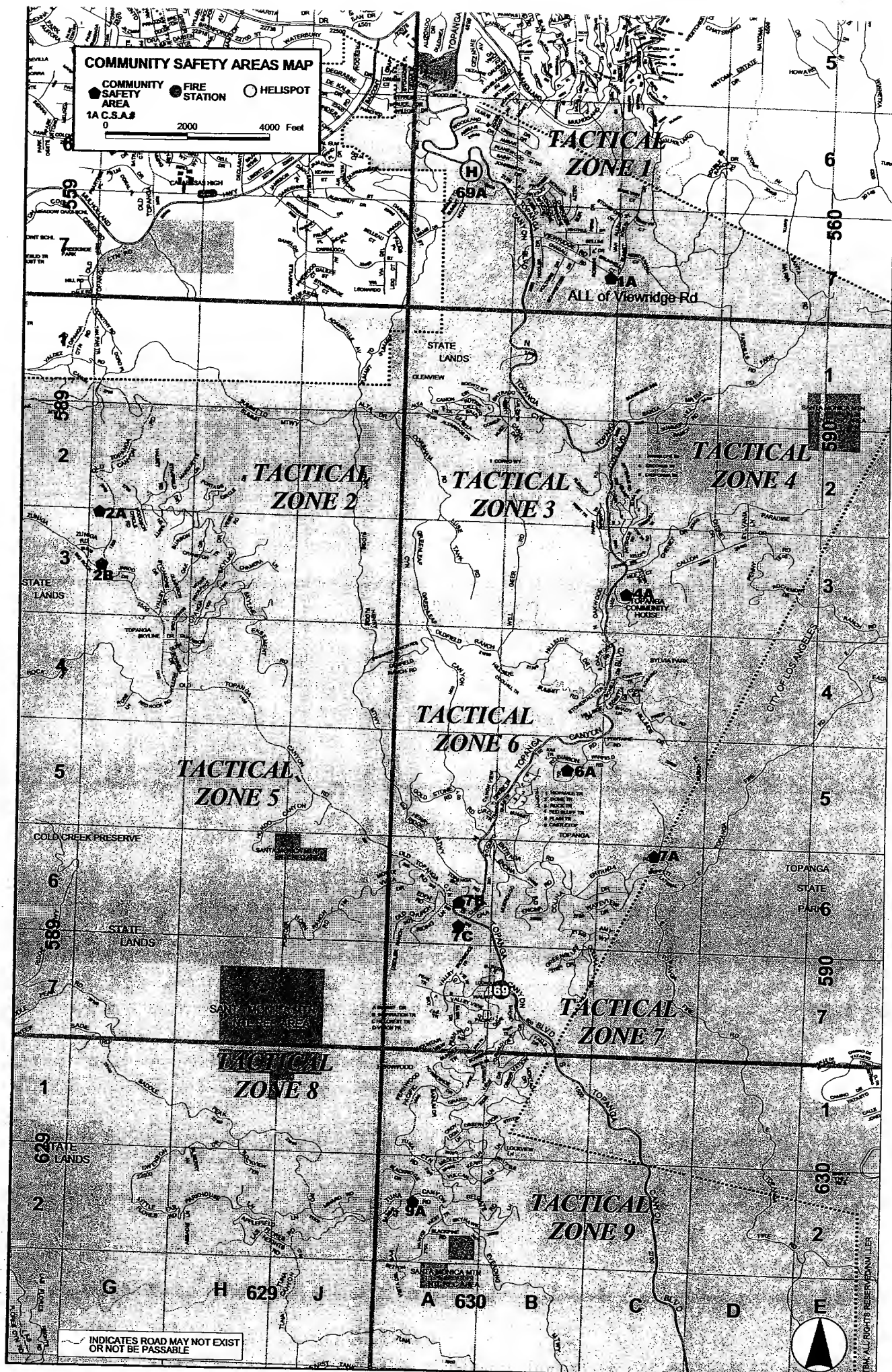
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69LM

69LN

Topanga Wildland Fire Community Evacuation Plan 7/09/09

Tactical Zone Maps **Zone 4**



Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 5

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS MAP

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA
1A.C.S.A.#
0 2000 4000 Feet

FIRE STATION
HELISPOT

TACTICAL
ZONE 1

ALL of Viewridge Rd

TACTICAL
ZONE 2

TACTICAL
ZONE 3

TACTICAL
ZONE 4

TACTICAL
ZONE 6

TACTICAL
ZONE 5

TACTICAL
ZONE 7

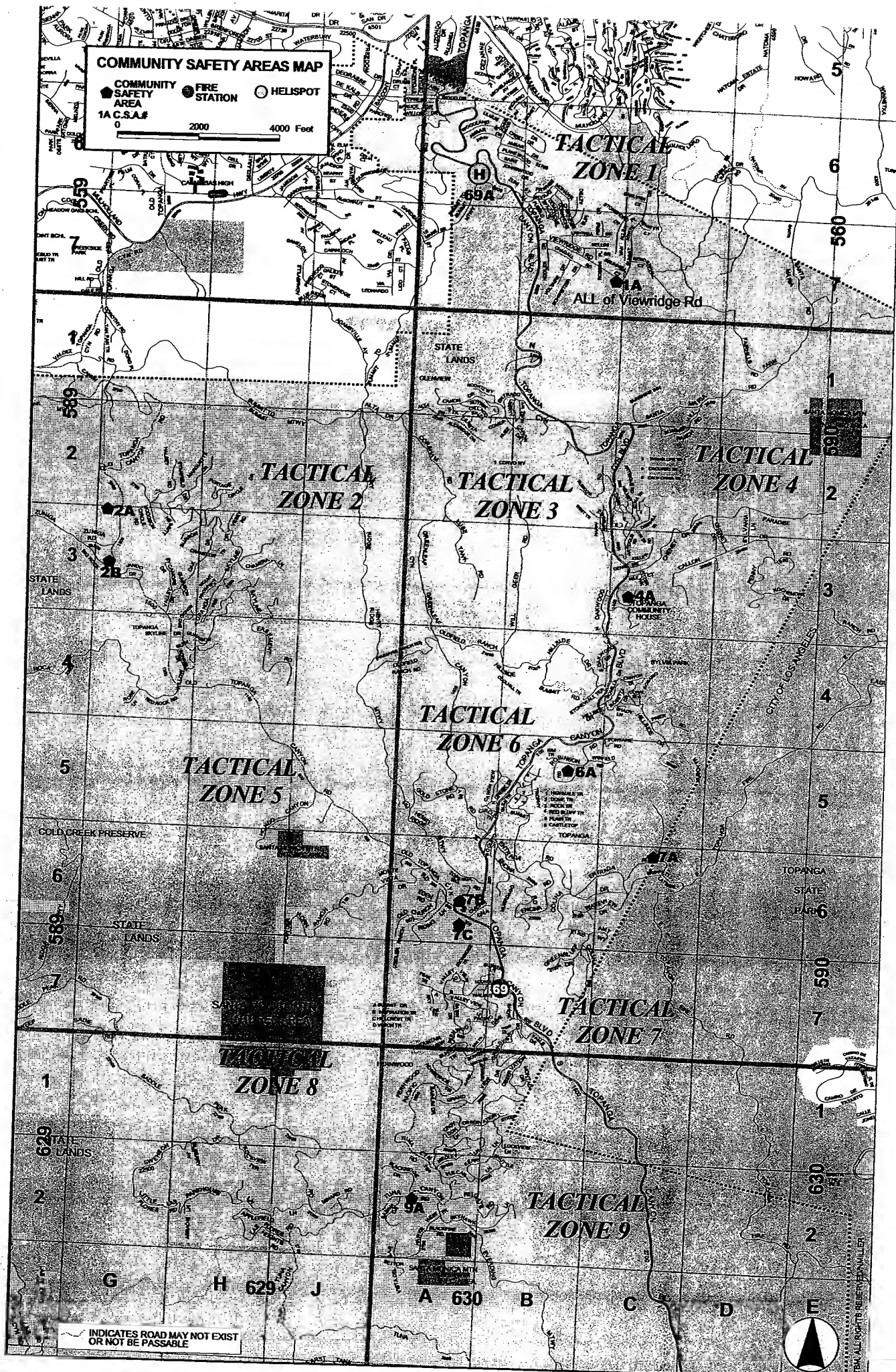
TACTICAL
ZONE 8

TACTICAL
ZONE 9

INDICATES ROAD MAY NOT EXIST
OR NOT BE PASSABLE



Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 6



Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 7

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS MAP

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA
1A C.S.A.#

FIRE STATION
HELISPOT

0 2000 4000 Feet

TACTICAL
ZONE 1

ALL of Viewridge Rd

TACTICAL
ZONE 2

TACTICAL
ZONE 3

TACTICAL
ZONE 4

TACTICAL
ZONE 6

TACTICAL
ZONE 5

TACTICAL
ZONE 7

TACTICAL
ZONE 8

TACTICAL
ZONE 9

INDICATES ROAD MAY NOT EXIST
OR NOT BE PASSABLE

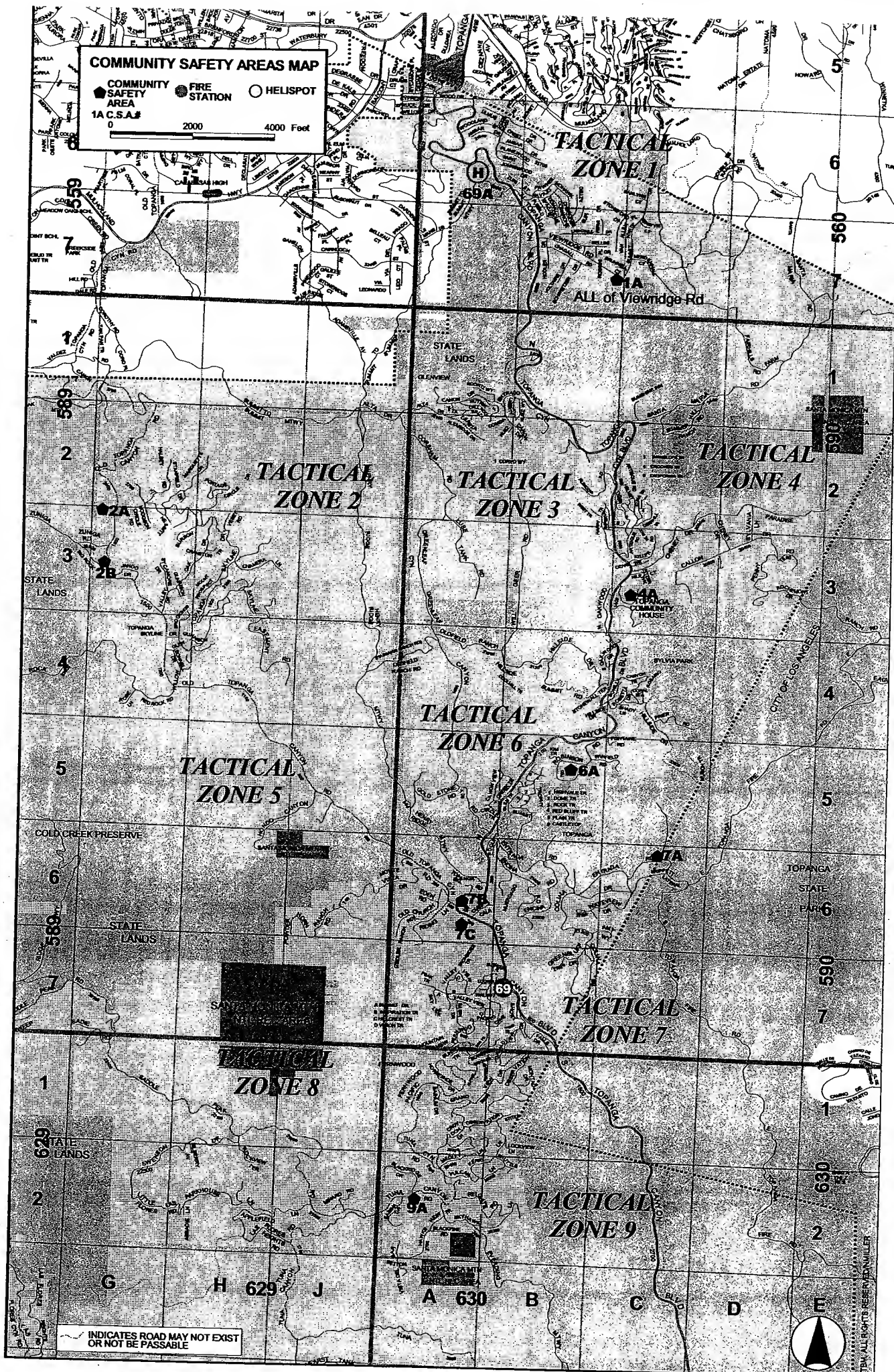


Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 8

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREAS MAP

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA
1A C.S.A.#
0 2000 4000 Feet

● FIRE STATION ○ HELISPOT



Tactical Zone Maps
Zone 9

Appendix C

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

- ACCESS ROAD** Any road the Fire Department might need to use to reach a fire. Depending on conditions, the Fire Department trucks require a minimum road clearance of from 15 up to 26 horizontal feet and vertical to the sky.
- ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)** A County program within CSS.
- AERIAL FUELS** All live and dead vegetation located in the forest canopy or above the surface fuels, including tree branches and crowns, snags, moss, and high brush.
- AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC)** A nongovernmental organization with a congressional mandate to provide disaster relief assistance to individuals and families in emergencies, including temporary shelter, mass feeding, and the provision of other essential needs. The ARC works in cooperation with government agencies and other organizations.
- APS** See Adult Protective Services.
- ARC** See American Red Cross.
- ARSON WATCH** A volunteer program of the Lost Hills Sheriff's station whose goal is to assist in the prevention of wildfires in the Santa Monica Mountains.
- B&S** See Building & Safety Division of the Department of Public Works.
- BOS** Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County.
- BRUSH CLEARANCE UNIT** A unit of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- CACHE** A predetermined complement of tools, equipment, and/or supplies stored in a designated location and available for incident use.
- CALTRANS** The California Department of Transportation; responsible for State Highway 27 (Topanga Canyon Boulevard).
- CASUALTY COLLECTION POINT (CCP)** A temporary facility or location operated by the County Department of Health Services to collect, triage, and provide austere treatment, stabilization, and transport or release of casualties to appropriate medical care.
- CBET** See County Building Evaluation Team of the Department of Public Works.
- CBO** Community-based organization, often a nonprofit.
- CCP** See Casualty Collection Point.
- CDC** See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; County Community Development Commission.
- CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)** A Federal agency.
- CEO** Chief Executive Office or Chief Executive Officer of the County.
- CEOC** County Emergency Operations Center.
- CERT** See Community Emergency Response Team.
- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE (CEO)** A County department.
- CHP** California Highway Patrol.
- CISD** See critical incident stress debriefing.
- COMMAND POST (ICP)** Also called an Incident Command Post. A location at which primary incident command functions are executed; usually in the same place as the Incident Base.

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES (CSS) A County department.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) A citizen emergency response group.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AREA (CSA) An area within Topanga Canyon designated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department for individuals to find refuge during a large wildland fire, to be used only if they are unable to evacuate. In the Wildfire Survival Chain, this is plan B.

CONFLAGRATION A raging, destructive fire; often used to denote such a fire with a moving front, as distinguished from a firestorm.

COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (CDC) An agency responsible for responding to housing needs during an emergency.

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING (CISD) A term used in emergency management. In Los Angeles County CISD teams are provided by DMH.

CSA See Community Safety Area.

CSP California State Parks Department.

CSS See Community and Senior Services.

DART See Disaster Animal Rescue Team.

DCFS See Department of Children and Family Services.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL (LACDACC) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (DHR) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES (DPSS) A County department.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) A County department.

- Building & Safety Division (B&S); responsible for evaluating damage to private structures or property after a disaster.
- County Building Evaluation Team (CBET); a group within the Architectural Engineering Division that evaluates County-owned or -leased buildings after a disaster.
- Environmental Programs Division (EPD); responsible for investigating spills that might affect sewers or storm drains.

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING (DRP) A County department that deals with disaster-related land use and zoning issues.

DHR See Department of Human Resources.

DHS See Department of Health Services.

DISASTER ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM (DART) A County initiative within LACDACC.

DISASTER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (DMAT) A Federal/State-sponsored team of locally based volunteers deployed to provide medical care in an emergency.

DISASTER RADIO TEAM (DRT) A program of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP).

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER (DRC) A facility established by the Federal government in cooperation with state and local governments to provide information on Federal, State, and local disaster recovery programs where other methods are not practical. The Federal government pays for most of the costs of these centers.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT A pre-assembled group of critical items that will greatly improve the health and safety of individuals during a disaster. The kit should contain, at a minimum: goggles, bottled water, medications, respiratory protection (filter mask),

glasses, personal items, flashlight, extra batteries, protective clothing (long-sleeved T-shirts, pants), cotton or wool blanket, important documents, etc.

DISASTER VICTIM INQUIRY SYSTEM (DVIS) A County information system; in a disaster, Public Library employees help staff the DVIS.

DITCH If you cannot reach a Regional Shelter, a Community Safety Area, or a Neighborhood Survival Area, a ditch or other low-lying area will provide more safety as a last resort than staying in your home or your car. In the Wildfire Survival Chain, this is plan D.

DMAT See Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

DMH See Department of Mental Health.

DPR See Department of Parks and Recreation.

DPSS See Department of Public Social Services.

DPW See Department of Public Works.

DRC See Disaster Recovery Center.

DRP See Department of Regional Planning.

DRT See Disaster Radio Team.

DVIS See Disaster Victim Inquiry System.

EAS See Emergency Alert System.

ECC See Emergency Coordination Center.

EDAP See Employee Disaster Assistance Program.

EMC See Emergency Management Council.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) A voluntary, Federally sponsored cooperative system comprised of a Federal agency along with local and State governments working with private broadcasters to broadcast official alerts and warnings to local officials and the public.

EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (ECC) A County Fire Department expanded dispatch utilized when regional fire and rescue mutual aid is needed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (EMC) The County's accredited Local Disaster Council, which provides emergency management and planning oversight.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EM-MAC) A County-initiated advisory committee formed to advise the Board of Supervisors on specific local issues relating to emergency preparedness and planning.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (EMSA) The State agency charged with prehospital care and emergency planning. EMSA cooperates with the state's Department of Health Services to support local EMS and hospitals in an emergency, and it staffs the Medical Health Branch at the Region EOC (REOC) and the State Operations Center (SOC).

EMERGENCY NETWORK L.A. (ENLA) The Los Angeles County VOAD. ENLA works with the CEOC Care and Shelter branch coordinator during CEOC activations.

EMERGENCY OAK TREE PERMIT (EOTP) Required for any activity affecting the health of an oak tree in Los Angeles County.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) A facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to provide centralized management and multiagency coordination of jurisdictional response to an emergency. In accordance with California's SEMS, EOCs perform the function of the Multiagency Coordination Entity described in NIMS. See also T-CEP Volunteer EOC.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (ERP) A document detailing emergency response procedures. ERPs can be prepared for a single department or for an entire community; community and departmental ERPs must be coordinated.

EMERGENCY SIGNAGE Portable signage used only during emergencies to indicate evacuation routes, road closures, etc.

EMPLOYEE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EDAP) A program within DHR intended to help County employee disaster victims.

EMSA See Emergency Medical Services Authority.

ENLA See Emergency Network L.A.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION (EPD) A division of DPW; responsible for investigating spills that might affect sewers or storm drains.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNIT A unit of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

EOC See Emergency Operations Center.

EOTP See Emergency Oak Tree Permit.

EPD See Environmental Programs Division.

EQUINE RESPONSE TEAM The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control Equine Response Team (LACDACC-ERT) is a Countywide volunteer organization that assists with the safe evacuation of horses and livestock during large- and small-scale disasters. The group also works to educate horse owners on disaster preparedness.

ERP See Emergency Response Plan.

EVACUATION CENTER A temporary facility or location where people displaced by a disaster can go until a more permanent solution is established or they can return to their homes. In most cases, the American Red Cross will manage Evacuation Centers.

EVACUATION ORDER A directive by law enforcement to evacuate a designated area immediately for their safety and the safety of others. Failure to follow this order may result in endangerment to the lives of others, personal injury, or death. See also Immediate Evacuation.

EVACUATION REFUSAL A formal, signed refusal by a resident to evacuate his or her home or business following an Evacuation Order. In this circumstance, adult residents assume responsibility for their own safety and acknowledge that they may be prosecuted under the California Penal Code.

EVACUATION ROUTES Roads and highways identified by law enforcement to evacuate individuals out of harm's way to a safe area or shelter. Evacuation Routes may be identified verbally during an Evacuation Order or predesignated in a written plan.

EVACUATION WARNING A warning by law enforcement for individuals to either leave a designated area because of a possible threat or prepare to evacuate if an Evacuation Order is issued. This is the time to evacuate those in need of special assistance and large animals. The majority of Evacuation Warnings become Evacuation Orders.

FAIR PLAN ASSOCIATION A group of property insurers designed to provide affordable fire insurance to property owners in high fire danger areas.

FCC See Federal Communications Commission.

FCO See Federal Coordinating Office.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) A Federal agency.

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER (FCO) Appointed in a Federally declared major disaster to manage Federal recovery efforts.

FIREBREAK (1) An area around a structure where the vegetation has been modified to create defensible space (see Fuel Modification Zone); (2) an area clear-cut by the Fire Department to halt the progress of a wildland fire.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL A partnership of public agencies, community groups, and corporations focusing on public outreach regarding fire prevention.

FRS-RADIO Family Radio Service radios are a relatively inexpensive means of communicating in the event of a major disaster when phone service will likely be interrupted. The Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP) uses FRS radios to communicate with its Neighborhood Networks in a disaster.

FUEL LOAD Oven-dry weight of fuel per unit area (usually expressed in tons per acre).

FUEL MODIFICATION ZONES Also known as Brush Clearance Zones. The area around a structure, usually 200 horizontal feet, where vegetation needs to be managed for fire safety.

GROUND FUELS All materials lying on or immediately above the ground, including needles or leaves, duff, grass, small dead wood, downed logs, stumps, hard-to-reach large limbs, and low brush.

HIGH HAZARD AREA Geographic area prone to significant wildfire events owing to vegetation, topography, and weather. All of Topanga, Calabasas, Malibu, and the Santa Monica Mountains are in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).

IC See Incident Commander.

ICP See Incident Command Post.

ICS See Incident Command System.

IHSS See In-Home Supportive Services.

IMMEDIATE EVACUATION Law enforcement and/or Fire Department personnel may order an Immediate Evacuation when there is a threat to the health and safety of a community. An Immediate Evacuation is usually only verbal.

IMT See Incident Management Team.

INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC) The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations during an emergency.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) Standardized on-scene emergency management tool within SEMS/NIMS.

INCIDENT COMMAND POST (ICP) A location at which primary incident command functions are executed; usually in the same place as the Incident Base.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (IMT) The Incident Commander and appropriate general and command staff personnel assigned to an incident.

INFORMATION OFFICER A member of the Incident Command staff responsible for interacting with the public and media or with other agencies obtaining information directly from the incident.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) A program of County social workers within DPSS.

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD) A County department addressing internal logistical needs.

ISD See Internal Services Department.

JFTB See Joint Forces Training Base.

JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE (JFTB) Location of the OES Region emergency operations center.

LAC See Local Assistance Center.

LACDACC Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control.

LACDACC-ERT See Equine Response Team.

LACOE Los Angeles County Office of Education.

LACOFD Los Angeles County Fire Department.

LACOSD Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

LAUSD Los Angeles Unified School District.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER A local "one stop" multiagency center set up in case of a large local or regional disaster to provide local, State, Federal, and NGO recovery information and/or assistance to disaster victims.

LOLLIPOP To limb up trees and shrubs by pruning the lower branches off, leaving one to three trunks, and removing dead wood, while keeping the canopy relatively intact. The purpose is to separate ground fuels from aerial fuels and reduce the fuel load.

MALIBU FORESTRY UNIT A unit of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

MASTER MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT Also known as the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement, a Statewide mutual aid agreement between the signatory public agencies and governments to provide voluntary and reciprocal assistance in emergencies without expectation of reimbursement. All 58 counties, the State, and most local agencies are signatories. Under a State of Emergency the Governor may make mutual aid mandatory.

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MTA) A special transportation district in Los Angeles County. During CEOC activation, MTA provides an agency representative to work with the CEOC Logistics Section.

MITIGATION Actions taken before an emergency to eliminate or reduce the impact of a threat or hazard. Brush clearance and brush clearance ordinances are examples of mitigation.

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) A State agency.

MRCA See Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

MTA See Metropolitan Transit Authority.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS Voluntary and reciprocal agreements between public agencies to share personnel, services, materials, and facilities in an emergency without expectation of reimbursement.

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) A nationwide set of protocols for emergency management, established pursuant to Presidential Directive Number 5.

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (NVOAD) A national umbrella organization for NGOs providing relief and recovery services in a disaster. See also Emergency Network L.A.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK A Neighborhood Network is a group of residents, usually organized by street, who come together to devise a plan of action in the event of a disaster. The plan may include the rescue of pets, turning off utilities, retrieving items of value or sentiment, caring for children or neighbors in need of special assistance, and making sure everyone is safe in the Neighborhood Network area. A program of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP).

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVAL AREA (NSA) An area designated for individuals to find refuge during a large wildland fire. NSAs should be used only if residents cannot evacuate Topanga to a safe area (e.g., a Regional Shelter) or reach a Community Safety Area within Topanga Canyon. In the Wildfire Survival Chain, this is plan C.

NIMS See National Incident Management System.

NSA See Neighborhood Survival Area.

NVOAD See National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

OA See Operational Area.

OAAB See Operational Area Advisory Board.

OAERP See Operational Area Emergency Response Plan.

OEM See Office of Emergency Management.

OES See Office of Emergency Services.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM) An office of the CEO.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) A State agency.

OFFICE OF UNINCORPORATED AREA SERVICES (OUAS) An office of the CEO.

OFFICIAL INSPECTION REPORT (OIR) A report issued by a Fire Department brush inspector on potential or existing hazards on private property. Failure to comply with an OIR will result in an administrative penalty and a special assessment on the property owner's tax bill.

OPERATIONAL AREA (OA) An Intermediate level of the State's emergency services organizations, consisting of local governments within a county and all of the local governments (including Special Districts) within that county.

OPERATIONAL AREA ADVISORY BOARD (OAAB) A County emergency advisory group consisting of City and County agencies.

OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (OAERP) The County Emergency Plan, describing how the County is organized and how the County emergency organization will carry out a coordinated response to major emergencies and disasters within the OA and between the OA and the Region. This plan is coordinated with the State Emergency Plan and SEMS.

OUAS See Office of Unincorporated Area Services.

PATCH People Assisting Topanga Canyon with Helping Hands, a local nonprofit group providing assistance to hard-to-reach populations.

RAPID NOTIFY An automated alert system activated by the County that notifies residents by telephone in an emergency.

RCC See Recovery Coordination Center.

RECOVERY COORDINATION CENTER (RCC) An Operational Area-wide center established to coordinate recovery activity.

RECOVERY PLAN (RP) A document detailing steps for a community to take after a disaster.

RED FLAG WEATHER Weather conditions in which winds are blowing in excess of 25 mph and humidity is below 15 percent, often but not necessarily combined with high temperatures. A Red Flag Warning is issued before the weather conditions arise, and a Red Flag Alert is issued when the conditions are in effect.

REGIONAL SHELTER/RED CROSS SHELTER These facilities are usually pre-identified and are designed to shelter individuals in the event of a disaster. Facilities such as showers, sleeping areas, and kitchens may preexist or may have to be constructed during an incident. Regional Shelters are typically located away from the affected disaster area. In the Wildfire Survival Chain, this is plan A.

REGION EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (REOC) An EOC activated by the State to ensure regional coordination of mutual aid and state support within one or more Mutual Aid Regions.

REOC See Region Emergency Operations Center.

RP See Recovery Plan.

SAFETY ZONE A defensible area of at least a 400-foot circle that is clear of vegetation. There are no identified Safety Zones in Topanga; but see Community Safety Area.

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (SMMC) A State agency.

SBA See Small Business Administration.

SCHOOL SHELTER A school that students will be transferred to or remain in for shelter during a large wildland fire or other disaster. School staff will supervise the students until they are reunited with their parents or guardians.

SCO See State Coordinating Officer.

SEMS See Standardized Emergency Management System.

SLOPE Determined by measuring rise divided by run (rise/run) as a percentage.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) A Federal agency that issues recovery loans to homeowners and businesses based on meeting Federal requirements. SBA loans may be made available when, pursuant to a request by the Governor (or designee), an independent disaster determination is made by the SBA Director, or when the President declares a major disaster or emergency and includes the SBA in the declaration.

SMMC See Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

SOC State Operations Center.

STAGING AREA A location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on an immediately available status, usually able to respond within three minutes. Staging areas are managed by the operations personnel.

STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SEMS) California's Statewide emergency management system, codified in the Emergency Services Act and in Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations. SEMS comprises the principles of the Incident Command System, Interagency Coordination, Mutual Aid, and the Operational Area concept. SEMS is consistent with the principles of NIMS.

STATE COORDINATING OFFICER (SCO) The person appointed by the governor to act for the State in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Officer.

STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC) In Sacramento. Coordinates statewide operations with SEMS/NIMS.

STEEP SLOPE A grade of at least 45 degrees or 50 percent, where erosion is a significant consideration.

SWOT Acronym for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; a term referring to an asset and planning analysis used as a tool in strategic planning.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS ZONE A pre-identified geographical area used by emergency responders to improve coordination and span of control during a disaster. Tactical Zone boundaries for Topanga are identified by Thomas Bros. map page and alpha-numeric grid boxes. Topanga is divided into nine Tactical Operations Zones.

T-CEP See Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness.

T-CEP VOLUNTEER EOC An Emergency Operations Center created and staffed by local community volunteers for the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness.

TEMP See Topanga Emergency Management Planning (TEMP) Project.

TOPANGA ANIMAL RESCUE A nonprofit organization that has the ability to mobilize a veterinary field triage unit in the event of an emergency in Topanga as well as providing ongoing animal education outreach programs for the community.

TOPANGA COALITION FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (T-CEP) A nonprofit group of community volunteers dedicated to emergency planning and communications.

TOPANGA CREEK WATERSHED COMMITTEE A citizen group addressing environmental issues of the Topanga watershed.

TOPANGA DISASTER SURVIVAL GUIDE and SUPPLEMENT Publications to help the Topanga community with disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. See www.topangasurvival.org.

TOPANGA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING (TEMP) PROJECT A collaborative community effort with public service agencies to create and maintain an emergency management plan for the Topanga community.

TOPANGA TOWN COUNCIL A nongovernmental citizens advisory group for the Topanga area.

TRAFFIC CLOSURE LEVELS

- Level 1: Open to the public.
- Level 2: Open to Fire Department, law enforcement, critical resources, and residents (critical resources include Municipal and Public Works, Edison, LASD, volunteer workers, etc.).
- Level 3: Open to Fire Department, law enforcement, and critical resources; critical resources may need to be escorted.
- Level 4: Open to Fire Department and law enforcement only.
- Level 5: Closed to all traffic; area blocked or not safe even for Fire Department and law enforcement.

TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT A geographical location determined by law enforcement to control access and entry to the area of an emergency incident.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN A plan developed by first responder departments and agencies with jurisdiction over the roads to enable (1) rapid ingress to an area where a disaster has occurred and (2) efficient egress for the general public.

UNIFIED COMMAND An Incident Command System management structure created to enhance interagency coordination by including all relevant jurisdictional agencies within the command structure where they jointly exercise command over resources dealing with an incident.

UNIFIED TACTICAL RESPONSE PLAN A plan developed by all relevant responding County departments for coordinated response to a disaster.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) A Federal agency.

USDA See United States Department of Agriculture.

VHFHSZ Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone; see High Hazard Area.

VOAD See Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOAD) VOADs consist of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and voluntary organizations that provide emergency/disaster relief and recovery to individuals and families in an emergency.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE A geographical area where structures and other human development meet with wildland fuels or vegetative fuels. Compare Wildland-Urban Intermix. Generally, there is a clear delineation at this interface, with varying degrees of defensible space between the wildland fuels (brush and chaparral) and the noncombustible structures. This term would apply to many newer subdivisions built in surrounding areas and in outlying communities. Few homes in Topanga meet this criterion.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERMIX (WUI) A term used to describe structures and other human development located and mixed within the wildland and vegetative fuels. Compare Wildland-Urban Interface. In areas considered to "intermix," there is no clear delineation between the wildland fuels and the structures themselves. In these cases, structures may be isolated or built in clusters, often characterized by poor access roads, steep terrain, combustible construction, and heavy ground, ladder, and aerial fuel loading. Intermix areas are usually associated with isolated structures or with older communities, such as Topanga.

ZONE MAP For purposes of emergency response, Topanga has been divided into nine Tactical Operations Zones (see map in *The Topanga Disaster Survival Guide*).